



What is claimed is:

1. A light source apparatus equipped with a GAN type semiconductor light emitting element, comprising

a spatial filter for eliminating stray light from the light emitted from the GAN type semiconductor light emitting element, wherein

said stray light amounts to 20% or less of the total output of the light emitted from said GAN type semiconductor light emitting element when said GaN type semiconductor laser is driven at the maximum output thereof.

2. A light source apparatus equipped with a GAN type semiconductor light emitting element as defined in claim 1, further comprising

a focusing optical system for focusing the light emitted from the GAN type semiconductor light emitting element, wherein

the spatial filter is formed of a slit panel or a pinhole panel disposed adjacent to the convergence position of the light focused by the focusing optical system.

3. A light source apparatus equipped with a GAN type semiconductor light emitting element as defined in claim 1, further comprising

a focusing optical system for focusing the light emitted from the GAN type semiconductor light emitting element, wherein

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the spatial filter is formed of a partially reflective mirror that partially reflects the light near the convergence position of the light focused by the focusing optical system.

4. A light source apparatus equipped with a GAN type semiconductor light emitting element as defined in claim 1, wherein

the spatial filter is a polarization element that eliminates the light components other than the TE mode components of the light emitted from the GaN type semiconductor laser.

5. A light source apparatus equipped with a GAN type semiconductor light emitting element as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein

the stray light is stray light that is generated when the drive current of the GaN type semiconductor light emitting element is less than the laser oscillation threshold value.

6. A method of eliminating stray light comprising the step of

eliminating, by use of a spatial filter, stray light from the light emitted from the light source apparatus equipped with a GAN type semiconductor light emitting element; wherein

said stray light amounts to 20% or less of the total output of the light emitted from said GAN type semiconductor light

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emitting element when said GaN type semiconductor laser is driven at the maximum output thereof.

7. A method of eliminating stray light as defined in claim 6, wherein

the stray light is stray light that is generated when the drive current of the GaN type semiconductor light emitting element is less than the laser oscillation threshold value.

8. An image forming apparatus that scans a photosensitive material with a light modulated based on image data to form the image borne by said image data, wherein

the light source apparatus for emitting said light is the light source apparatus defined in any one of claims 1 to 5.

9. An image forming apparatus as defined in claim 8, wherein

the image forming apparatus is configured so as to modulate the intensity of the light to be used for scanning the photosensitive material to form a concentration gradation image thereon.